

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 DPW-01 /064 W
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R 240727Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1347

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON

DEC 23 H/W REPEATED TO YOU. QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 651

E.O. 11651: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3

1. THE MAIN CONCERNS OF MR-3 HQS CONTINUE TO BE FOCUSED ON PHUOC LONG, BINH TUY, AND TAY NINH.

2. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 22, IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, NEW BO DUC WAS AGAIN ATTACKED AND FELL TO THE NVA/VC FORCES. SEVERAL HAMLETS IN THE VICINITY OF BA RA MOUNTAIN ALSO APPEAR TO BE IN NVA/VC HANDS AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF AAA CONCENTRATIONS AROUND PHUOC LONG'S PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SONG BE. MR-3 COMMANDER, LTG DONG, INTENDS TO INSERT ONE BN OF THE 5TH ARVN DIV INTO SONG BE TODAY TO REINFORCE THE REGIONAL FORCES DEFENDING THE TOWN.

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HE BELIEVES THAT AN NVA REGT (PROBABLY THE 271ST INDEPENDENT)

REINFORCED BY LOCAL FORCE UNITS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITY AROUND SONG BE AND MAY INTEND TO OVERRUN THE PROVINCE CAPITAL IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE DISTRICT TOWN OF DON XOAI WHICH HE FEELS IS BEING MENACED BY THE 209TH NVA REGT OF THE 7TH NVA DIV.

3. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE FOR REGIONAL FORCES IN BINH TUY IS TO RE-TAKE LO O HILL OVERLOOKING TANH LINH DISTRICT. REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO RE-TAKE THIS POSITION HAVE FAILED AND THE LOCAL COMMANDER FEELS THAT HE MUST FIRST SECURE THIS POSITION BEFORE HE CAN BEGIN TO RE-ASSERT HIS CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE DISTRICT. ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH ARVN DIV SUPPORTED BY RANGERS ARE STILL STRUNG ALONG ROUTE 333 LEADING TO HOAI DUC BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ORDERED TO PUSH ON INTO BINH TUY FOR FEAR THAT THE 33RD NVA REGT LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROAD WILL CUT 333 AND PREVENT THEIR EXIT.

4. THE SITUATION IN TAY NINH APPEARS TO HAVE GENERALLY STABILIZED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE BLACK VIRGIN MOUNTAIN (NUI BA DEN). OVER THE WEEKEND VNAF MADE ONE ATTEMPT TO DROP SUPPLIES BY PARACHUTE FROM A HELICOPTER BUT THE SUPPLIES DID NOT FALL WITHIN ARVN'S PERIMETER AND ARVN FORCES ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN WERE UNABLE TO REACH THEM. RANGER UNITS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AROUND THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN AND ARE ENGAGED IN MINING ACTIVITIES IN AN EFFORT TO CUT COMMUNIST SUPPLIES TO NVA/VC ELEMENTS OPERATING ON THE MOUNTAIN.

LAHIGUERA

UNQTE MARTIN

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